

Amendment to the Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A water treatment apparatus programmable pass key and a water treatment apparatus adapted to read the pass key when the pass key is in communication with the apparatus, the pass key being separable from the water treatment apparatus and adapted to be physically held and operable by a user during use, the water treatment apparatus being a stand-alone unit that is adapted to receive and be activated by one or more external pass keys, the pass key comprising a data carrier programmed with one or more predetermined codes, each code relating to an operation in or of the water treatment apparatus; the pass key being connectable to the water treatment apparatus from outside the unit without the removal of any components of the water treatment apparatus; wherein one of the codes is programmed to allow the user to service the water treatment apparatus after the pass key communicates with the water treatment apparatus and prevents servicing without the pass key first having been in communication with the water treatment apparatus.
2. (Previously presented) A pass key and apparatus combination as claimed in claim 1 wherein the data carrier is programmable.
3. (Currently Amended) A pass key and apparatus combination as claimed in claim 1 wherein the operation comprises ~~one or more of filtration, sanitization and/or recirculation.~~
4. (Previously presented) A pass key and apparatus combination as claimed in claim 1 wherein the water treatment apparatus has multiple access points.
5. (Previously presented) A pass key and apparatus combination as claimed in claim 1 wherein the pass key includes a memory capacity and an ability to read/interrogate the water treatment apparatus and/or vice versa.

6. (Previously presented) A pass key and apparatus combination as claimed in claim 5, wherein the pass key contains data relating to the water treatment apparatus.

7. (Previously presented) A pass key and apparatus combination as claimed in claim 1 wherein the pass key is time coded such that it is only operational for communicating with the water treatment apparatus for a preset time period.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously presented) A pass key and apparatus combination as claimed in claim 1 wherein the apparatus is accessible in more than one location.

10. (Original) A pass key and apparatus combination as claimed in claim 9, wherein the pass key includes electronic circuits which can communicate with electronic circuits within the water treatment apparatus.

11. (Previously presented) A pass key and apparatus combination as claimed in claim 10, wherein said electronic circuits communicate via transmittable waveforms.

12. (Original) A pass key as claimed in claim 10, wherein said electronic circuits communicate by physical contact.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously presented) A pass key and apparatus combination as claimed in claim 6, wherein the data includes at least one of validation information, process information and manufacturing information.

16. (Previously presented) A pass key and apparatus combination as claimed in claim 11, wherein the transmittable waveforms are selected from a group consisting of optical, electromagnetic and magnetic contacts.

17. (Previously presented) A pass key and apparatus combination as claimed in claim 1, wherein the water treatment apparatus is configured so that the pass key can be connected, installed and/or fitted into the water treatment apparatus in order for the pass key to communicate with the water treatment apparatus.

18. (New) A pass key and apparatus combination as claimed in claim 3 wherein sanitizing chemicals can be circulated through the apparatus only after the pass key communicates with the water treatment apparatus.

19. (New) A pass key and apparatus combination as claimed in claim 1 wherein the water treatment apparatus includes a sanitizing function, and wherein the water treatment apparatus is programmed to disable the sanitizing function until only after a pass key communicates with the water treatment apparatus to enable the sanitizing function, the water treatment apparatus disabling the sanitizing function after sanitizing is complete.

20. (New) A pass key and apparatus combination as claimed in claim 1 wherein the water treatment apparatus includes multiple functions, some of which are disabled, and wherein the water treatment apparatus is programmed to prevent use of the disabled functions until a pass key first communicates with the water treatment apparatus to enable one or more of the disabled functions, the water treatment apparatus programmed to detect whether the pass key is authorized to enable the disabled function.

21. (New) A pass key and apparatus combination as claimed in claim 20 wherein the water treatment apparatus is adapted to communicate with multiple pass keys, and wherein not all disabled functions can be enabled by the same pass key, the water treatment apparatus enabling

only select disabled functions that are associated with a particular pass key that is first brought into communication with the water treatment apparatus.

22. (New) A pass key and apparatus combination as claimed in claim 21 wherein the pass key includes a timed deactivation code that deactivates the ability of the pass key to activate certain functions on the water treatment, the pass key capable of being reactivated from an external source.